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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 10, 115 and 116
REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 28 February 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to invite your attention to the gruesome massacre of 14 innocent civilians, including men, women and children, in the Kotli sector of Azad Jammu and Kashmir by Indian security forces on the night between 24 and 25 February 2000.

The assailants came from across the line of control from Indian-occupied Kashmir. They were clad in military uniforms and were armed with small weapons and hand grenades. They slit the throats of inmates of a house. They also took away with them heads of three bodies. This gruesome incident has revived the memories of a similar brutal act committed by Indian soldiers in Bandala, Azad Jammu and Kashmir in April 1998.

This latest act of State terrorism by India comes in the wake of belligerent and provocative statements by the Indian leadership. Taken together they contribute further to the vitiation of the tense security situation in the region. They form part of a pattern of intensified Indian hostility towards Pakistan aimed at pressurizing Pakistan into compromising on its principled stand on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

In spite of these aggressive Indian actions, the Government of Pakistan has maintained a policy of restraint and measured response. Pakistan remains committed to a resolution of the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir through peaceful means in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The international community must urge India to desist from such provocative acts that could lead to the further escalation of existing tension in the region.

I would like to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 10, 115 and 116, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alamgir BABAR
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly
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Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/772
S/2000/163
1 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43 and 160
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 29 February 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to refer to the letter dated 18 February 2000 addressed to you from the Prime Minister of Lebanon (A/54/759-S/2000/135, annex), and the letter dated 22 December 1999 addressed to you from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations (A/54/689-S/1999/1272).

These letters serve only to obscure the fact that the continuation of violence in southern Lebanon is the direct result of the policies of the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, in supporting and encouraging terrorism by Hizballah and other organizations, while rejecting available means for resolving the conflict.

It should be recalled that Israel has repeatedly extended to Lebanon the invitation to negotiate a solution to the conflict, which would restore peace and security to our common border and which would have prevented the tragic loss of life in the area. Instead, Lebanon, together with the Syrian Arab Republic has opted to allow the conflict to continue and the human toll to rise. The perpetuation of the violence, therefore, is of their own making.

In addition, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic continue to support a terrorist campaign aimed against the peace process and against the existence of a neighbouring State, in stark violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and its resolutions. Hizballah, which Lebanon has adopted as "the Lebanese national resistance" (see letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to you (A/53/878-S/1999/333)), makes clear that its "resistance" is against the entire peace process and against Israel itself, not merely its alleged activities in Lebanon: "The conflict with Israel is viewed as a central concern. This is not

only limited to the IDF presence in Lebanon. Rather, the complete destruction of the State of Israel and the establishment of Islamic rule over Jerusalem is an expressed goal" (Hizballah Programme, 16 December 1985). Indeed, Hizballah has a well-documented record of hostage-taking and targeted attacks against civilians, including diplomatic missions, in Lebanon and abroad.

In its campaign against Israel, Hizballah has resorted to cynically using civilian areas to provide a human shield for its terrorist activity, going so far as to launch attacks deliberately from populated places. This is in total violation of international norms, humanitarian principles and the 1996 April understandings. Indeed, the sovereignty of Lebanon as a whole is undermined when Syrian forces are deployed and are active inside its borders, using Hizballah as a proxy, and thereby perpetuating a conflict that sabotages the chances for bringing peace to the area. In fact, the acts of Hizballah are a direct attack on the current peace process, just as Hizballah's goals are in absolute opposition to any peace process, as Hizballah's programme makes clear.

"Our primary assumption in our fight against Israel states that the Zionist entity is aggressive from its inception, and built on lands wrested from their owners, at the expense of the rights of the Muslim people. Therefore our struggle will end only when this entity is obliterated. We recognize no treaty with it, no ceasefire, and no peace agreements, whether separate or consolidated. We vigorously condemn all plans for negotiation with Israel, and regard all negotiators as enemies ..." (Hizballah Programme, 16 December 1985). This policy was echoed in recent weeks by Sheikh Hassan Nassrallah, the Secretary-General of Hizballah, who stated: "There is no solution to the conflict in this region except with the disappearance of Israel" (Washington Post, 1 January 2000).

Nevertheless, the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon openly support and encourage Hizballah. As recently as last week, Lebanese Prime Minister Salim El Hoss confirmed that "we officially back the resistance", in an interview with the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram (Agence France Presse, 14 February 2000). Lebanon's Prime Minister has even praised the "jihad" of Hizballah (Voice of Lebanon, 16 February 1999).

I wish to recall the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, providing that sovereignty carries a responsibility not to allow terrorist acts to be organized and prepared on one's territory, or launched from it. The deliberate support and arming of Hizballah stand in direct conflict with Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) and international norms.

It should also be recalled that Security Council resolution 425 (1978) calls not only for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, but also for the restoration of international peace and security and the return of the effective authority of the Government of Lebanon in the area. The declared willingness of the Government of Lebanon to host an elaborate terrorist infrastructure, to permit its regular reinforcement and to endorse its operations against a neighbouring country, is totally incompatible with that Council resolution.

Coupled with its refusal to negotiate a peaceful solution, the policies of Lebanon, along with the Syrian Arab Republic's own support for Hizballah, leave Israel with no alternative but to exercise its right to self-defence in accordance with international law.

Nevertheless, we call upon the Governments of Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic to refrain from backing the enemies of peace, and to demonstrate a willingness to prevent further bloodshed, by engaging Israel at the negotiating table. This process remains the only hope for restoring peace and security along our border and preventing the tragic loss of life.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 43 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aaron JACOB
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations A/54/773

General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 47
The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 29 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belize to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 28 February 2000 from Said W. Musa, Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belize, providing details of the illegal arrest of four members of Belize's security forces, within the territory of Belize, by Guatemalan military personnel on 24 February 2000 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 47.

(*Signed*) Michael A. **Ashcroft**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-32258 (E) 020300

Annex

Letter dated 28 February 2000 from the Prime Minister of Belize addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you of a recent incident in which elements of the Guatemalan Armed Forces, in violation of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, entered Belize and forcibly removed four members of Belize's security forces from Belizean territory into Guatemala, where they have been illegally detained.

I have enclosed a copy of a letter addressed to the President of Guatemala, Dr. Alfonso Portillo, protesting this flagrant violation of Belize's sovereignty and territorial integrity and calling for the speedy release of the security personnel (see enclosure).

Given this situation, the Government of Belize requests you to use your good offices to assist in securing the early release and repatriation of the detained security personnel.

(*Signed*) Said W. **Musa**
Prime Minister
Minister of Finance and Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Letter dated 25 February 2000 from the Prime Minister of Belize addressed to the President of Guatemala

I have the honour to refer to an incident that occurred on Thursday 24 February 2000 when a routine joint Belize Defence Force/Belize Police Department Border Patrol, comprised of three soldiers and a policeman, encountered a Guatemalan Armed Forces Patrol of about 25 soldiers in the vicinity of the border observation post of "Tree Tops" in the Toledo District of Belize.

The site of the encounter was along a marked path well within the established boundaries of Belize, openly and frequently used by Belize's Security Forces on their regular border patrols.

The Belizean patrol, with the aid of global positioning system (GPS) technology, established the location of the encounter as indisputably within Belize (Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid system reference BN 639909).

Nevertheless, the Guatemalan Armed Forces Patrol disputed the verification of the location of the encounter and with threat of lethal violence, including the use of firearms, removed the three Belizean soldiers and one Belizean policeman from the location of the encounter in Belize into Guatemala.

Communication between senior commanders of the Belize Defence Force and Guatemala's Military Zone 23 has disclosed that the Belizean soldiers and policeman are being detained at a Guatemalan military facility pending a court appearance, within civil jurisdiction, to answer allegations of illegal entry into Guatemala with firearms and ammunition.

The Government of Belize hereby must express its strong protest to the Government of Guatemala at the illegal action of Guatemalan Armed Forces in entering Belizean territory and forcibly removing Belizean security personnel to Guatemala.

Recalling the Purpose of the United Nations for the promotion of friendly relations among nations, I wish to refer to your security authorities of the requirement of Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter of the United Nations, requiring abstention from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations. The aforementioned Purpose and requirement have long animated relations in our hemisphere, as particularly expressed in article 11 of the Montevideo Convention on Rights and Duties of States of 1933 and articles 1, 2, 10 and 20 of the Charter of the Organization of American States. In particular, such Purpose and requirement should govern the relations between neighbours sharing a border.

I must further emphasize that any attempt to subject the aforementioned Belizean personnel to Guatemalan juridical jurisdiction would aggravate the situation.

Further, I seek your cooperation in obtaining the speedy release of Belizean security personnel and facilitating their safe return to Belize.

(*Signed*) Said W. **Musa**
Prime Minister
Minister of Finance and Minister for Foreign Affairs